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Wells Fargo suspect linked to Cubans

By Daniel James
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One of the 14 suspects arrested in connection with the 1983 robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo armored car, Filiberto Inocencio Ojeda Rios, is considered by U.S. intelligence sources to be an agent of Cuba's General Intelligence Directorate (DGI), and the organizer of Puerto Rico's terrorist movement.

Mr. Ojeda Rios, 45, has been identified by those sources as the "father of the FALN," or Armed Forces Liberation Movement, for many years the only Puerto Rican terrorist group operating in "enemy territory" — as the island's terrorists consider the continental United States. He is still wanted in Puerto Rico for jumping \$2,000 bail, following his arrest in connection with several bombings in 1970.

He founded and led the very first of Puerto Rico's modern terrorist organizations, the Independent Armed Revolutionary Movement (MIRA), in 1967, which led to the formation of the FALN.

MIRA members received training and arms in Cuba, and became operational in early 1969, when they bombed a police station, a bank and other enterprises in Puerto Rico. The group bombed 35 targets in New York alone during 1970, in addition to many others on the island itself. It was finally broken up by the police, and Mr. Ojeda Rios was arrested.

After jumping bail, he went to New York and was assigned to the DGI unit attached to Cuba's United Nations Mission. It was then that he formed the FALN, out of a nucleus of old MIRA comrades.

In 1979, Mr. Ojeda Rios joined with other Puerto Rican terrorist leaders in unifying, under a single command, the island's five principle terrorist groups then in existence. This established the now familiar Cuban policy of insisting on the unity of contending revolutionary factions, later carried out successfully in Nicaragua and El Salvador, as a basic condition for Havana's support.

Under the unified command came the FALN, People's Revolutionary Commandos (CRP), the Voluntary Organization of the Puerto Rican Revolution (OVRP), the Armed Forces of the Puerto Rican Revolution (FARP), And the Macheteros, or Boricua Popular Army (after Puerto Rico's original Indian name, Borinquen). It is the Macheteros which have claimed responsibility for the Wells Fargo robbery, but it is clear from Mr. Ojeda Rios' involvement that behind them stands the DGI.

The Macheteros and other members of the unified terrorist command were put under a Cuban organism, the Coordinating Revolutionary Junta (JCR), based in Havana. The JCR, in turn, had been set up by the DGI and the Cuban Communist Party's Americas Department, which sponsors and directs national liberation movements throughout Latin America.

Mr. Ojeda Rios was placed in charge of the Coordinating Revolutionary Junta's Eastern Caribbean section. A master of disguise, in that capacity he was able to slip in and out of Puerto Rico over the years, undetected until his capture last week.